Numb. 78.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, July the 25th. 1682.

Jeſt. I AM very unwilling that the Gentlemen of St. *Omers* or *Doway* ſhould meddle in matters that relate to our Government; and I have as little reaſon to think it neceſſary that the ſmall Diſciplets of *Newington* or *Nettlebed* ſhould intermeddle therein.

Earn. Nod, Brother, nod: take example by the Sober Party, who ſeldom talk ſeriouſly, but they nod. What's the meaning of this matter about *Newington?*

Jeſt. Why, I have it from a good hand that from the Seminary there a ſmall Detachment was made of Yonglings that were got as far as *Aſſerit A, negat E*; and that they held up their hands as Liverymen in the Common-hall, and argued (forſooth) ſtrongly in order to ſtrengthen the Brethren.

Earn. You aggravate the matter, I fear; for others ſay, their buſineſs was only to dictate to the ſhallow people the names of the Perſons they were to poll for, which (being a couple of exotic *Walloon* Names) they were very apt to miſtake, ſome being for *Pavilion*, others for *Puntillion*, many for *Pompillion*, and ſome for *Pompilkington*; The Youths perhaps meeting now and then with one that ſeem'd wiſer than ordinary might indeed diſcourſe a choice thing concerning *Liberty*, out of ſome Theme they had made upon that Subject. And this was all they did, as they ſay.

Jeſt. No, no, one of 'em was ſo warm in the matter as to ſay, "He would rather loſe his life "than Mr. *North* and Mr. *Box* ſhould be Sheriffs. Can St. *Omers* or even *Salamanca* afford a greater piece of Impudence?

Earn. Poor Fools, they have put themſelves Prentices to learn to ſow Sedition and Rebellion, and they are afraid the Trade will come to nothing. But prethee, what do the Whigs plead in defence of their Guild-Hall Extravagancies?

Jeſt. They plead the Plot.

Earn. Like enough; for they are wont to make that their refuge, when they have nothing elſe to flie to; I'le tell ye, being my ſelf in Company t'other day where ſome Diſcourſe aroſe concerning the Replication lately made by the Kings Attorney to the Plea before put in by the City to the *Quo Warranto*; and a Gentleman expreſſing ſome doubt that the Charter could not be maintain'd againſt that part of the Replication that takes notice of ſome odd Expreſſions in the City Petition. (Alas, ſays a little dapper-Fellow) *'twill be eaſie to rejoin to that Replication: You'l find* (quoth he) ſpeaking with as much confidence as if he had been ſolely truſted by the City to defend it) *that the City by way of Rejoinder will ſet forth the Plot, the whole Plot, and then let 'em ſurrejoin what they can.*

Jeſt. I don't think though that they'l put the City to the charge of ſo long a Rejoinder, why 'twould reach man as far as from *Alderſgate*-ſtreet to *Hedg-lane*, I ſhould think it might almoſt ſuffice to ſet forth in their Rejoinder, what I find ſet down in Dr. *Oats* his Narrative printed by Authority of Parliament, that the Pope, Society of Jeſus *and their* Confederates were in hopes of their accompliſhing their wicked ends, among other means, *by diſaffecting the Kings beſt Friends at home and abroad, and Subjects againſt his Perſon and Government; charging him with Tyranny, and Deſigns of Oppreſſing, Governing by the Sword, and without Parliaments*, pag. 67. *By Aſperſing, Deriding, Expoſing, and declaiming againſt his Perſon, Councils and Actions in Parliaments, and elſewhere, by miſ-reporting and raiſing falſe News of his Affairs; by diſaffecting his Majeſties Allies*, Holland, Spain, *the* German Emperour *and* Princes *by falſe Intelligence. By* ſeditious Preachers *and* Catechiſts, *ſet up, ſent out, maintained and directed what to Preach in their Own or other Private or Publick Conventicles, and Field-Meetings. By ſetting up falſe pretended Titles to the Succeſſion of the Crown; and Animating different Parties, one againſt another; on this or ſuch-like falſe pretences, to Arm and put the People in blood upon the Kings Death.*

Earn. I am no *Pleader*, but if there be any occaſion to ſet forth in the *Rejoinder* any thing of the *Plot*, I ſhould think, with ſubmiſſion to the Gentlemen of the Long-Robe, that ſo conſiderable a Diſcovery ought not to be omitted. But prethee, how do they excuſe their barbarous uſage of *Thomſon* and *Farwell* during the Execution of the Sentence againſt 'em. I am not taking their part, for Authority having before declar'd upon good grounds, that Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* was barbarouſly murder'd by Execrable Villains: To deal plainly, I was no more diſ ſatisfied at the Execution of that Sentence than I ſhould have been at the legal puniſhment of any of thoſe who arraign'd the Juſtice of *Scotland*; by giving out, in favour of their diſſenting Brethren there, and in oppoſition to the teſtimony of many Eye-witneſſes of undoubted Credit, that that Learned and pious Prelate was murder'd by ſome of his Tenants. But deliver me from the diſſolute Spirit of our Whiggiſh Libertines, who having renounced all Reverence to the King, his Laws and Government, who being loſt to all humanity, and having abandon'd themſelves to helliſh Rage, which, forſooth, muſt

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be vogued Proteſtant Zeal, are never ſatisfied with the meer Execution of the Law againſt a Criminal, not being of their own Faction, without additional arbitrary Severities of their own.

Jeſt. Diſorders of that kind you muſt know they always Fob upon the Rabble.

Earn. And in the ſenſe of our Whiggs, Apprentices, and People of an inferiour Rank, and none elſe, come under the denomination of *Rabble*, but to do ſuch right, they are generally more peaceably inclined of themſelves, and ſeldom commit any publick Outrage, but when they are ſet on by men of Condition. How came it to paſs elſe, I'de fain know, that *Ben. Harris*, Proteſtant *Ben.* during the Execution of his Sentence to the Pillory for the Crime of Printing and publiſhing as lewd an incentive to open Rebellion as ever the Sun ſaw, did not ſuffer the leaſt abuſe either from gentle or ſimple? Don't you remember that on the contrary the Whigs ſhew'd him very great reſpects at the place of Execution?

Jeſt. I do, and I make no doubt but if it ſhould be *Aarons* hap to be condemned to the Pillory for his having publickly arraigned the Juſtice of the Nation, he might ſtand there too without having one hair of his Peruke diſordered. But the truth is, our Whigs of quality have the prettieſt way with 'em to incite thoſe they term the Rabble to ſuch miſchief. *Ned*, ſays one, who ſtiles himſelf of the ſober Party: *Ned*, ſays he to the Fore-man of the Shop, *I know you are minded to ſee ſuch a one ſtand in the Pillory; You would have a fling at him I dare ſay:* And then, drawing up his mouth into an infernal Sneer of Approbation of ſuch kind of Roguery; Well, ſays he, *You may go. Dick*, ſays another to a Porter who plies at his Door, *How many rotten Eggs have you laid up in ſtore to beſtow upon Popiſh* Nat? *I know you'l make Holiday to morrow to pepper him:* Upon which hint the poor Wretch is glad to do ſo, and to be very active too in his way for the Proteſtant Intereſt, for fear he ſhould want a better imployment for a whole Week after. And then you would have bleſt your ſelf to have obſerved, as I did, at *Dicks* Coffee-houſe with what Exultation and Glee they entertain'd the News of thoſe horrid abuſes that were offered to the Criminals upon the execution of the Sentence againſt 'em, with what pleaſure they related the miſchiefs done to 'em with Brickbats and Chalk Eggs.

Earn. One would have thought, that how rude ſoever they think fit to be in *London*, they ſhould not ſo near his Majeſties Palace, and in the face of his Courts of Judicature, have arraigned, and in ſo high a manner violated the Juſtice of the Nation.

Jeſt. 'Tis all one to them, and to thoſe that encourage 'em to it; 'twas always their way of expreſſing their zeal for the Juſtice of the Nation, and the Proteſtant Cauſe.

Earn. In my Conſcience if theſe Fellows were but ſuffered to go on a little longer in their Villany they'd render the name of true Proteſtant (upon which heretofore a man might have valued himſelf) as odious as they have made that of *Tory* honourable. But d'ye hear of any more Writs (Latitats I think they call 'em) taken out againſt my Lord Mayor!

Jeſt. No, 'tis matter of admiration to me that there were ſo many, for if what I have been credibly told be true, that his Lordſhips appearance to any one of 'em (the actions being brought by *Bill* in the *Kings Bench*) would give a legal opportunity to a thouſand Citizens to deliver, if they ſo pleaſed, as many Declarations againſt him; then the taking out ſeventeen Writs againſt his Lordſhip at once, and the threatning him with ſo many more, ſeems to me to be very impertinent.

Earn. Don t condemn the means before you know the end; there was more policy in the conduct of that Affair than it may be you are aware of.

Jeſt. Prethee unfold the Myſtery to me, if thou canſt.

Earn. Thoſe at the Helm of the Faction, you muſt know, judg'd it very needful to do what in 'em lay to affright his Lordſhip from the further proſecution of his duty, and to deter the Sheriffs Elect from the chearful acceptance of their Office, which if they could have effected, 'twould have been a great Point gain'd, let me tell ye.

Jeſt. But is it poſſible that they ſhould be ſuch Sots as to imagine that the little tricks that ſerve to ſteer their Giddy-brain'd Adherents, ſhould make any impreſſion upon men of Sobriety, Senſe, Loyalty, and Reſolution?

Earn. Well, but that's not all; you muſt know the many late diſappointments had well-nigh ſunk the Spirits of the Whiglanders into Deſpair, and ſomething was wanting to buoy 'em up.

Jeſt. They might better cheap though, have boaſted once or twice a week in *Langley Curtis* his *true Proteſtant Mercury* of the coming in of ſome hundreds more of freſh Proſecutors.

Earn. In troth ſo they might; that would have coſt 'em little or nothing; it may be they'l do ſo ſtill.

Jeſt. I'de laugh at that, thoſe Rhodomontades will come too late, they'l ſerve no other purpoſe now but to diſcover their ignorance and expoſe 'em to open ſhame.

Earn. Well, but they'l pretend it may be that they took out ſo many Writs that they might be certain of one Plaintiff to let in as many others by the *by* as ſhould think fit to proſecute. Could they tell how many True Proteſtants might die in a long Vacation? the Sweating-ſickneſs it ſeems is very rife.

Jeſt. There is ſomething in that I confeſs, or indeed who knows how many of 'em may be hang'd in that time, and as I have heard, *Actio moritur cum perſona.*

Earn. I would fain know how they intend to Declare, and I can meet with none of 'em that can tell me. The *Latitats* I am told are only in Treſpaſs which it ſeems is the common Form.

Jeſt. Poſſibly they may Declare in *Trover.* Why ſhould not an Action of *Trover* lie for Priviledges loſt in *Guild-hall* as well as for a Ship loſt in *Cheapſide*?

Earn. The Lawyers know beſt, and if they'l give it under their hands for Law, his Lordſhip had beſt look about him.

Jeſt. They may talk of Lawyers as men exempted by their very Profeſſion from all thoſe follies and vices to which men of all other Callings will acknowledg themſelves liable. And yet, God forgive me, I have been ſometimes tempted to ſuſpect that upon a ſtrict ſcrutiny there might poſſibly be found among 'em three or four, if not more, that are not altogether ſo wiſe as they look, nor ſo honeſt as they ſhould be. But not a word of the pudding.

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